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**From:** Dunlap, David [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=591EB15A268249DDA0C05A7451F765C3-DUNLAP, DAV]  
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<https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2019/02/trump-put-a-koch-official-in-charge-of-americas-drinking-water/amp>

# How much cancer is too much cancer? Let Koch's expert on water and chemical regulations decide.

*Bess Levin*

## Trump Quietly Put a Koch Official in Charge of Research Affecting America's Drinking Water

February 5, 2019 11:59 AM



Thanks, pal!

*By Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images.*

Of all the federal agencies that fall under **Donald Trump's** purview, none embodies the administration's unofficial mandate to do the exact opposite of its stated mission quite like the Environmental Protection Agency. For the last two years, the E.P.A.—which, as a reminder, is supposed to be protecting human health and the environment—has done everything in its power to turn the planet into an ashtray and convince Americans that toxic chemicals are actually totally fine to drink, breathe, and otherwise ingest, all in an effort to help companies secreting those chemicals maximize their profits. Which is to say, we probably should have seen this one coming:

The Trump administration has placed a former Koch Industries official in charge of research that will shape how the government regulates a class of toxic chemicals contaminating millions of Americans' drinking water—an issue that could have major financial repercussions for his former employer.

**David Dunlap**, a deputy in E.P.A.'s Office of Research and Development, is playing a key role as the agency decides how to protect people from the pollution left behind at hundreds of military bases and factories across the country. . . He spent the previous eight years as Koch Industries' lead expert on water and chemical regulations, a position that typically includes helping companies to limit regulatory restrictions and liability for cleanups.

Dunlap was hired in October, according to previously undisclosed documents. Since then, he has been extremely busy, having reportedly been involved in high-level meetings that preceded the agency's decision *not* to set drinking water limits for chemicals known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which "have been linked with kidney and testicular cancer, as well as other ailments." (In a statement, **David Ross**, EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, told the Hive: "Despite what is being reported, EPA has not finalized or publicly issued its PFAS management plan, and any information that speculates what is included in the plan is premature. The agency is committed to following the Safe Drinking Water Act process for evaluating new drinking water standards, which is just one of the many components of the draft plan that is currently undergoing interagency review.") According to Politico, Dunlap has been able to avoid a Senate confirmation hearing in which his prior work experience might come up because Trump has not officially nominated anyone to run to office. (Dunlap's official bio on the E.P.A. Web site declines to mention any of his employers during his "more than 30 years" working for "private industry, trade associations and as an environmental consultant.") Currently, Koch subsidiary Georgia-Pacific, a paper and pulp conglomerate, is facing at least one class-action suit related to chemicals now under Dunlap's purview.

Koch's various environmental crimes against humanity are laid out in several high-profile lawsuits over the past 20 years. According to Bloomberg, "Koch Industries was assessed more than \$400 million in fines, penalties, and judgments" between 1999 and 2003, such as for dumping hundreds of thousands of gallons of aviation fuel into a Minnesota wetland. "You want an independent, hardheaded scientific review of these issues; you don't want somebody who is already taking the industry party line," **Erik Olson**, who heads up the Natural Resources Defense Council's public health work, told Politico. "There's a legitimate threat there and, from my perspective, the conflicts of interest that [Dunlap] has having worked as a regulatory compliance director at Georgia-Pacific raises questions about whether he can make those objective decisions or should be recused."

Dunlap, of course, is unlikely to be replaced by someone without a host of conflicts of interest given that the guy currently running the E.P.A., **Andrew Wheeler**, is a walking, talking conflict of interest, having served as a coal-lobbyist prior to taking over the top job from departed Grift King **Scott Pruitt**. It is, in other words, par for the course. Here's a few other actions Trump's E.P.A. has taken over the past two years:

- Argued coal plants should regulate themselves;
- Announced plans to roll back mercury regulations;
- Made it easier to release methane into the air;
- Tried to suppress a report showing “most Americans inhale enough formaldehyde vapor in the course of daily life to put them at risk of developing leukemia and other ailments”
- Pushed for asbestos to make a comeback; and
- Claimed a little radiation might actually be good for you.

You know, policies the Forgotten Man was hoping Trump would push through when they voted for him in 2016.

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*This story has been updated.*

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Office Personal Matters / Ex. 6